



# AG UPDATE

USDA/NASS Colorado Field Office  
PO Box 150969

Lakewood, CO 80215

Phone: (303)236-2300 1-800-392-3202

To access NASS and Colorado reports:

<http://www.nass.usda.gov>

FAX: (303)236-2299 1-800-643-6885

Released: April 22, 2009

Vol. 29 No. 8

<p><b>Contents of This Issue</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶Cattle on Feed</li> <li>▶Chicken and Egg Production</li> <li>▶Milk Production - March</li> <li>▶Potato Stocks</li> <li>▶Cold Storage</li> <li>▶Onions - 2008 Intentions</li> <li>▶Barley County Estimates</li> </ul>
---

disappearance for the month of March since the series began in 1996.

**Cattle on Feed, 1,000+ Feedlots, Colorado and United States, April 1, 2008-2009**

Item	Colorado		United States	
	2008	2009	2008	2009
	1,000 head			
On Feed March 1	1,050	1,040	11,853	11,228
Placements During Mar.				
< 600 pounds	20	20	335	300
600 - 699 pounds	25	25	330	340
700 - 799 pounds	45	55	561	592
800 plus pounds	45	65	510	570
Marketings During Mar.	160	165	1,842	1,642
Other Disap. During Mar.	5	5	63	56
On Feed April 1	1,020	1,040	11,684	11,152
Steers & Steer Calves	600	670	7,347	6,979
Heifers & Heifer Calves	415	365	4,276	4,122
Cows & Bulls	5	5	61	51

**CATTLE ON FEED  
APRIL 1, 2009**

The number of cattle and calves on feed for the slaughter market in **Colorado** feedlots with a capacity of 1,000 head or larger was estimated at 1,040,000 head as of April 1, 2009. The latest inventory was the same as last month but 2 percent above last year's inventory. The inventory included 670,000 steers and steer calves, up 12 percent from the previous year. The number of heifers and heifer calves, at 365,000 head, was down 12 percent from last year. The number of cows and bulls in the feedlot inventory, at 5,000 head, was unchanged from last month and a year ago. Cattle feeders with 1,000 head or larger capacity marketed an estimated 155,000 head of fed cattle during March 2009. This was 6 percent below the previous month's marketings and 3 percent below marketings one year earlier. An estimated 165,000 cattle and calves were placed on feed during March, down 13 percent from February 2009 placements but up 22 percent from a year ago. Of the number placed in March, 12 percent weighed less than 600 pounds, 15 percent weighed from 600 to 699 pounds, 33 percent weighed from 700 to 799 pounds, and 39 percent weighed 800 pounds and greater. Other disappearance for March, at 10,000 head, was 5,000 head higher from last month and last year.

**CHICKENS AND EGG PRODUCTION  
MARCH 2009**

**Colorado** laying flocks produced 98 million eggs during March 2009 compared with 96 million in March 2008 and 89 million in February 2009. The number of layers during March of this year was nearly 3.85 million, down from 3.90 million the previous year. The average number of eggs produced per 100 birds was 2,543 for March 2009 compared with 2,465 for March 2008.

**United States** egg production totaled 7.72 billion during March 2009, up 1 percent from last year. Production included 6.63 billion table eggs, and 1.09 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.02 billion were broiler-type and 75 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during March 2009 averaged 340 million, down slightly from last year. March egg production per 100 layers was 2,269 eggs, up 1 percent from March 2008. All layers in the U.S. on April 1, 2009 totaled 341 million, down slightly from last year. The 341 million layers consisted of 283 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 54.3 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 3.07 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on April 1, 2009, averaged 73.9 eggs per 100 layers, up 2 percent from April 1, 2008.

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the **United States** for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.2 million head on April 1, 2009. The inventory was 5 percent below April 1, 2008. The inventory included 6.98 million steers and steer calves, down 5 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 63 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 4.12 million head, down 4 percent from 2008. Placements in feedlots during March totaled 1.80 million, 4 percent above 2008. Net placements were 1.75 million head. During March, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 300,000, 600-699 pounds were 340,000, 700-799 pounds were 592,000 and 800 pounds and greater were 570,000. Marketings of fed cattle during March totaled 1.83 million, 1 percent below 2008. Other disappearance totaled 50,000 during March, 21 percent below 2008. This is the lowest other

Egg-type chicks hatched during March 2009 totaled 40.1 million, up 1 percent from March 2008. Eggs in incubators totaled 37.6 million on April 1, 2009, up slightly from a year ago. Domestic placements of egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 277 thousand during March 2009, up 13 percent from March 2008.

## MILK PRODUCTION MARCH 2009- 23 STATES

**Colorado** dairy herds produced 253 million pounds of milk during March 2009, up 8 million pounds from March last year. The average number of cows, at 128,000, is up 2,000 head from the 126,000 cows on hand a year ago. The average milk per cow for the month of March in Colorado was 1,980 pounds per cow compared with 1,945 pounds per cow in March 2008.

Milk production in the **23 major States** during March totaled 15.2 billion pounds, down 0.2 percent from March 2008. February revised production at 13.6 billion pounds, was down 2.7 percent from February 2008. The February revision represented a decrease of 23 million pounds or 0.2 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate. Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,788 pounds for March, 6 pounds below March 2008. The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.48 million head, 15,000 head more than March 2008, but 4,000 head less than February 2009. Milk production in the U.S. during the January - March quarter totaled 47.3 billion pounds, down 0.6 percent from the January - March quarter last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the quarter was 9.30 million head, 11,000 head more than the same period last year.

**Milk Cows and Milk Production, Colorado and 23 States**

Item	March 2008	Feb. 2009	March 2009
<b>Colorado</b>			
Milk Cows (1,000 head) 1/.....	126	128	128
Milk Per Cow (lbs.) 2/.....	1,945	1,780	1,980
Production (mil. Lbs.) 2/.....	245	228	253
<b>23 States</b>			
Milk Cows (1,000 head) 1/.....	8,467	8,486	8,482
Milk Per Cow (lbs.) 2/.....	1,794	1,606	1,788
Production (mil. Lbs.) 2/.....	15,191	13,627	15,164

1/ Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh.

2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

### POTATO STOCKS - APRIL 1, 2009

**Colorado** growers and commercial storage facilities in the San Luis Valley had 8.7 million cwt of potatoes on hand as of April 1, 2009, up 16 percent from the 7.5 million cwt on hand one year earlier. The latest stocks represented 41 percent of the 21.34 million cwt produced in 2008. Sales of Colorado's fall potatoes for table stock have averaged 68 percent of the production for the 2003-2007 periods. The remaining 32 percent of production is used for seed, processing, feed and home use or is lost through cullage and shrinkage. The total quantity of potatoes sold as a percent of production has averaged about 86 percent over the past five years.

The 13 major potato States held 115 million cwt of potatoes in storage April 1, 2009, down 9 percent from a year ago and 5 percent below April 1, 2007. Potatoes in storage accounted for 31 percent of the 2008 fall storage States' production, slightly below April 1, 2008. Klamath Basin stocks totaled 1.45 million cwt on April 1, 2009, up 26 percent from a year ago.

Klamath Basin stocks include potatoes stored in California and Klamath County, Oregon.

Potato disappearance, at 253 million cwt, was 7 percent below April 1, 2008 and down 6 percent from 2007. Season-to-date shrink and loss, at 20.6 million cwt, was down 7 percent from the same date in 2008 and 8 percent below 2007.

Processors in the 9 major States have used 134 million cwt of potatoes this season, down 7 percent from the same period last year and down 8 percent from 2 years ago. Dehydrating usage accounted for 24.9 million cwt of the total processing, down 15 percent from last year and 23 percent below the same period in 2007.

### COLD STORAGE - MARCH 31, 2009

Frozen food stocks in refrigerated warehouses on March 31, 2009 were greater than year earlier levels for eggs, turkey, and cheese. Butter stocks were up 5 percent from last month but down 4 percent from a year ago. Total red meat supplies in freezers were down 4 percent from the previous month and down 6 percent from last year. Frozen pork supplies were down 5 percent from the previous month and down 10 percent from last year. Stocks of pork bellies were down 3 percent from last month and down 26 percent from last year.

Total frozen poultry supplies on March 31, 2009 were up 3 percent from the previous month but down 4 percent from a year ago. Total stocks of chicken were down 2 percent from the previous month and down 17 percent from last year. Total pounds of turkey in freezers were up 10 percent from last month and up 19 percent from March 31, 2008.

**Stocks in Storage, United States**

Commodity	Mar. 31, 2008	Feb. 29, 2009	Mar. 31, 2009
	1,000 Pounds		
Butter .....	224,804	204,927	215,218
Cheese, total natural .....	824,309	875,106	892,482
Eggs, frozen .....	16,302	22,065	20,592
Poultry, total frozen .....	1,197,125	1,113,610	1,146,930
Chicken .....	764,765	647,759	634,700
Turkey .....	428,133	462,395	507,931
Fruits, frozen .....	920,547	1,038,838	917,819
Fruit Juices, frozen .....	1,410,683	1,658,605	1,695,664
Vegetables, total frozen .....	1,626,420	1,984,061	1,825,093
Potatoes, total frozen .....	1,087,661	1,192,095	1,228,151
Meats, total red .....	1,106,922	1,084,860	1,040,848
Beef, total frozen .....	426,708	434,514	422,457
Pork, total frozen .....	657,344	624,477	593,197

Data for this report are collected from public and private refrigerated warehouses storing commodities for 30 days or more. Food stocks are excluded for places where entire inventories are turned over more than once a month.

### ONIONS - 2009 CROPS

**Colorado** producers intend to plant 7,000 acres of summer storage onions in 2009, down 13 percent from last year. Although mountain snowpack is currently above average statewide, mandated well restrictions, labor shortages, and

disease problems such as Iris Spot Virus are negative incentives for raising onions this year.

**Onions for Fresh Market 2007-2009 Crops**

Crop	Area Planted		
	2007	2008	2009
	Acres		
Spring <sup>1/</sup>			
Total	33,000	31,200	29,500
Summer: <sup>1/</sup>			
Non-Storage			
CA.....	8,000	7,800	6,000
NV.....	2,800	2,600	2,500
NM.....	7,300	7,000	5,000
TX.....	1,100	800	700
WA <sup>2/</sup> .....	1,500	1,900	2,000
Total.....	20,700	20,100	16,200
Storage			
CA <sup>3/</sup> .....	30,000	32,500	33,500
CO.....	9,000	8,000	7,000
ID.....	9,300	8,800	8,700
MI.....	3,900	4,000	4,000
NY.....	11,200	10,600	10,500
OR:			
Malheur	12,600	12,400	12,200
Other	10,300	9,600	9,300
WA.....	22,500	20,000	21,000
WI.....	2,200	1,900	1,900
Oth Sts <sup>4/</sup> .....	2,180	1,690	1,920
Total	113,180	109,490	110,020
Total Summer.....	133,880	129,590	126,220
U.S. ....	166,880	160,790	155,720

<sup>1/</sup> Primarily fresh market. <sup>2/</sup> Includes Walla Walla and other non-storage onions.

<sup>3/</sup> Primarily dehydrated and other processing. <sup>4/</sup> OH and UT.

**United States** total planted onion area for all seasons in 2009 is forecast at 155,720 acres, down 3 percent from last year. Spring onions are expected to be harvested from 27,400 acres in 2009, down 4 percent from 2008. Georgia and Texas combined production is forecast at 6.35 million cwt, 4 percent above last year. Summer nonstorage onion planted area, at 16,200 acres, is down 19 percent from a year ago. Total summer onion area, at 126,220 acres, is down 3 percent from the previous year.

Producers intend to harvest 27,400 acres, of spring onions, down 4 percent from last year. In California, the spring onion crop is in good condition. In Georgia, precipitation during the winter months was below normal. Heading into spring the State had adequate moisture levels. The crop is doing well and disease problems are minimal. Harvest should begin around mid-April.

Non-storage planted area is 16,200 acres, down 19 percent from last year. In California, the onion crop is progressing well. In Nevada, seed beds have been in place for several

weeks anticipating seasonal warming to begin planting. In New Mexico, the onion crop is developing well. In Washington, the crop is in good condition; however, some wind damage was reported.

Storage planted area is 110,020 acres, up slightly from 2008. California acreage, which is primarily dehydrated or otherwise processed, is up 3 percent from last year. Despite concerns with water availability during planting, good growing conditions are currently being reported. In Colorado, labor shortages are a major concern. In Idaho, water availability is not a concern. In Oregon, spring conditions have been colder than normal throughout the State.

**COUNTY ESTIMATES - BARLEY 2008**

Colorado's barley production increased 24 percent from last year's output due to a 33 percent increase in seeded acreage. The 2008 crop totaled 8,640,000 bushels compared with 6,960,000 bushels produced in 2007 as producers planted 80,000 acres, up 20,000 acres from the previous year. The area harvested, at 72,000 acres, was up 24 percent from the 58,000 acres harvested a year earlier. Statewide, growing conditions were typical and the state's average yield was at 120 bushels per acre, the same as 2007.

**Rio Grande County** led all barley producing areas of the state by producing 2,405,000 bushels in 2008. The latest crop was 25 percent larger than the 1,930,000 bushels produced in 2007 and represented 28 percent of the state's total output. Producers harvested 16,500 acres in 2008 compared with 13,600 acres the previous year, a increase of 21 percent. The average yield of 146.0 bushels per acre for 2008 was 4.0 bushels above the 2007 crop average of 142.0 bushels per acre.

**Saguache County** was the second largest barley producing area of the state with a total production of 1,600,000 bushels in 2008, up 7 percent from the 1,500,000 bushels produced a year earlier. The 12,500 acres harvested in 2008 were up 17 percent from the previous year. However, the average yield of 128.0 bushels per acre was 12.0 bushels per acre below the average for the previous year's crop.

**Costilla County** came in as the third largest county for the 2008 crop by producing 1,350,000 bushels, up 221 percent from the 420,000 bushels produced in 2007. The harvested area of 10,000 acres increased 194 percent from the 3,400 acres harvested the previous year. The average yield for the county, at 135.0 bushels per acre, was 11.5 bushels per acre above the previous year's average of 123.5 bushels per acre

**Alamosa County** was fourth as its 2008 barley output of 1,150,000 bushels was up 10 percent compared with 1,050,000 bushels produced the previous year. The harvested area of 9,200 acres was 1,100 acres below a year earlier. Per acre yields in the county were lower than the previous year, averaging 125.0 bushels for the 2008 crop compared with 129.5 bushels per acre from the 2007 crop.

**Conejos County** maintained fifth place in barley producing counties in the state with a total production of 950,000 bushels in 2008. The latest crop was 23 percent larger than the previous year's output of 770,000 bushels. The harvested area of 7,300 acres was 1,300 acres more than the previous year. The average yield for the county, at 130.0 bushels per acre, was 1.5 bushels per acre above the previous year's average of 128.5 bushels.

The top five producing counties accounted for 86 percent of the state's total barley crop. Other top producing counties with the percent change in production from the previous year and the 2008 output were as follows: **Weld County**, down 5 percent to 630,000 bushels; **Larimer County**, up 9 percent to 191,000 bushels; **Boulder County**, down 7 percent to 179,600 bushels.

#### UPCOMING REPORTS

Colorado and U.S. data from most of the following reports will appear in subsequent issues of AG UPDATE. However, those who have an immediate need for the data may call this office after 1:15 P.M. on the day of release - toll free 1-800-392-3202. The complete USDA report is also available on the Worldwide Web at: <http://www.nass.usda.gov>

- Apr. 23 - Floriculture Crops
- Apr. 24 - Dairy Products - Annual
- Apr. 24 - Livestock Slaughter
- Apr. 30 - Agricultural Prices
- May 12 - Crop Production
- May 15 - Potato Stocks
- May 18 - Milk Production
- May 22 - Cattle on Feed
- May 29 - Meat Animals - Prod, Disp, Income
- May 29 - Poultry Production and Value

**William Meyer**  
Director

**Rodger Ott**  
Deputy Director